

**REMARKS**

In the office action, claims 11 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. With respect to "time and slot", appropriate revisions to the claims have been made. With respect to the "base station transmitting the base station synchronization information", the base station communicates with a second plurality of stations and the primary station. The base station also transmits the base station synchronization information to facilitate these communications. Accordingly, as amended, Applicant's respectfully submit that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With respect to 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of the claims in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,879,581 (Schlosser et al.), Applicant's respectfully traverse that rejection based on the following. All of the independent claims recite "the primary station... detects a frame timing from received signals and aligns its transmitting frame timing accordingly" or an analogous recitation. None of the prior art disclose this arrangement, in particular Schlosser, in combination with the other elements of the claims. The office action compares the primary station with the spacecraft of Schlosser. The spacecraft in Schlosser clearly does not synchronize the timing of its downlink transmissions with received signals. The spacecraft clearly dictates the timing to the data terminals. The downlink frame format of the space craft is continuous and is not synchronized to the received signals. See Schlosser, Column

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4, lines 53 to column 5 line 63. Accordingly, the primary station and space craft of Schlosser are not the same. In Schlosser the data terminals align their uplink frame timing in response to the downlink timing dictated by the space craft. In the present invention, the primary station synchronized its timing to the base station and further has a secondary station synchronized its timing with the primary station. This is a totally different configuration than Schlosser. Accordingly, the claims are allowable.

Reconsideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure